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## Press Reports

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P R E S S   R E P O R T S

October 1974  
to  
October 1975

## PRESS REPORTS

October 1974 - October 1975

October 30, 1974  
ANDROSCOGGIN RIVER

Lewiston Daily Sun

Find Best Conditions on  
Pollution Now Prevail

By GERALD J. REED

"In general, we had a moderately good water supply throughout the summer which contributed to one of the better seasons on the Androscoggin River."

This is the opinion of Walter A. Lawrance, the court-appointed rivermaster. He has just compiled his annual report to be filed with the proper authorities.

Dr. Lawrance said it was one of the best summers in recent years as far as control of pollution and odors of the river is concerned.

The rivermaster, or as the formal title reads, administrator of the court decree, said treatment plants upriver and the new Lewiston-Auburn Water Pollution Control Authority treatment plant in Lewiston have materially helped in the clean-up of the Androscoggin River.

Dr. Lawrance said he observed some fish, a few jumping, in the river this summer, but he noted the Androscoggin River never will be suited to cold water game fish. He felt that those varieties which had a successful habitat in warmer water will be coming into the river in the not too distant future.

Years ago salmon came up the Androscoggin River, but he said they went into the Little Androscoggin River to spawn. The fish which Dr. Lawrance said he watched last summer were near Gulf Island Dam.

Dr. Lawrance was named the rivermaster under a court order by the late Justice Harry Manser in 1947, but he began his association with the technical committee studying the river in 1943. Each year since 1947, Dr. Lawrance and his crew have worked to abate any nuisance which might arise on the river. Now the treatment plants at the paper mills upriver, combined with sewage treatment plants in communities whose waste water empties into the river, are beginning to show a beneficial effect on the river's polluted condition.

During the last of July, and in early August, Dr. Lawrance said, a slight odor of hydrogen sulfide was noticed, but it was at only a slight degree locally and was at the lowest frequency for a decade or more. The odor readings were taken at the Gulf Island Dam station, and in the downtown sections of Lewiston and Auburn.

It was noticed on only three or four occasions during the summer months. It was of very low intensity.

The dissolved oxygen in the pond above Gulf Island Dam was higher throughout the summer than for many previous years.

#### Fish Near Rumford

Dr. Lawrance said an encouraging feature of the fight against river pollution was the fact that fish are returning to the river area upstream from Rumford. The oxygen content in the water from Rumford to Berlin "is very good indeed." Dr. Lawrance said that tests taken at Rumford showed the water was meeting the "C" classification all summer.

A problem developed at the Riley Dam which cut down somewhat in the dissolved oxygen in the water. Dr. Lawrance said the dam had been damaged by ice last winter in the downstream apron, and to repair the situation, the river had to be diverted through the old pulp mill. By this method only about half as much dissolved oxygen was picked up by the river as it passed through the water wheels as it would have had it dropped over the Riley Dam.

The aeration of the water as it flows over the dam tends to cause the picking up of the much larger quantity of oxygen.

Below Lewiston the river is reported as fairly good with Penley's Rips helping to materially do away with sewerage odor as the water is again aeriated. This puts more oxygen into the water.

#### Treatment Helps

Dr. Lawrance said that the secondary treatment plant at Jay, which went into operation at the end of last May and which will be in operation all winter, has materially helped the river's pollution condition.

It will be another year, he said, before a full evaluation can be made but the effect has been to considerably lower pollution. There has been a higher oxygen content in the water in effect all the way from Jay through Lewiston.

The rivermaster noted that the paper making concerns, the International at Jay and Livermore Falls, the Oxford Paper Co. at Rumford and the Brown Co. at Berlin, N.H., are spending some \$45 million in primary and secondary treatment of their waste material in the river clean-up. He noted that the equipment at Rumford and Berlin will be completed and operating by January 1977.

The sludge condition already has shown a big improvement, the rivermaster noted.

Dr. Lawrance said that the foam residual from the secondary treatment plant at Livermore Falls always will present a brownish



foam condition and that this should not be used as a measure of the pollution condition.

He said that the water used by the plant has this coloration and that the only way it could be removed would be through a bleaching process. Filtration would not remove the color.

### Only Warm Water Fish

Dr. Lawrance said his calculations are that from the North Turner Bridge southerly there is not a chance for cold water game fish to survive in the river. He said the river temperature, even in the deep pond at Gulf Island Dam, is too warm. Such game fish as bass might make a good comeback in the area.

October 30, 1974

Lewiston Evening Journal

### Andros. River Had One Of 'Better Seasons'

According to Walter A. Lawrance, Androscoggin County rivermaster, the past year was one of the "better seasons" on the river. Dr. Lawrance said it was one of the best summers in recent years as far as control of pollution and odors of the river is concerned.

The rivermaster, or as the formal title reads, administrator of the court decree, said treatment plants upriver and the new Lewiston-Auburn Water Pollution Control Authority treatment plant in Lewiston have materially helped in the clean-up of the Androscoggin River.

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October 31, 1974

Lewiston Daily Sun

### GROUP SUING DEP OVER IP EXPANSION APPROVED AT JAY

By Jean Braucher  
Associated Press Writer

AUGUSTA, Maine (AP) - The Maine Public Interest Research Group plans to sue the state Department of Environmental law in granting a permit to the International Paper Co. for expansion of its Jay mill.

Michael Huston, the new PIRG director, charged Wednesday that the DEP board did not obtain adequate evidence to grant IP the permit. "That's why there were so many conditions placed on that permit," he said.

The Environmental Law Institute, Inc., a newly formed group based in Portland, will join in the suit, Huston said. The Natural Resources Council board will decide at a meeting Friday whether the NRC will also be a party to the action, he said.

The DEP board has granted an IP petition to reopen hearings on the permit and reconsider conditions on emission of pollutants. PIRG has applied to be an intervenor in those hearings, set to start Nov. 8. Huston said the permit granted to IP "bent the law", but IP is still not satisfied and wants the conditions lifted.

Plans to sue the environmental agency were announced at the same time that PIRG released a study of the DEP's bureaus of air and water control. The report, entitled "Maine Can Do Better Than This," charges that the DEP has presided over significant degradation of the state's air and water quality. It says the DEP has in many cases failed to develop standards and in others cases has not enforced them.

PIRG concludes that the DEP has not fulfilled its mandate to "preserve and protect" the environment. One reason is inadequate staffing and funding, the consumer research and action group said.

Huston said the DEP board's decision to reopen hearings on conditional permits granted to IP calls into question the board's willingness to enforce the law.

The report said industrial polluters and the DEP staff maintain a "cozy relationship" concerning changes in permit conditions and extensions of time for compliance.

Written by Barbara Reid Alexander, a second year law student at the University of Maine law school, the report recommends that the DEP change its enforcement posture to insure rapid and regular use of the enforcement tools provided by law, such as suits and fines.

The study says only one air quality suit has been brought by the DEP, and said this does not reflect widespread compliance with air standards. There are frequent violations of air standards in the Portland area, yet no action is taken, the PIRG report states.

Increased monitoring of polluters and expanded public participation in DEP proceedings are needed, PIRG said. The study also claimed the DEP has bailed to address the issue of non-degradation of the air when it is cleaner than standards set by the federal government.

Publication of the report follows a 10-week study of the DEP last summer. Huston said it is also a myth that industry is reluctant to come to Maine because of strict environmental standards.

"Industry has been reluctant to come to Maine, period. Before there were environmental standards, industry wouldn't come here because they claimed we didn't have the work force or our winters were too cold."

December 5, 1974  
Bulletin

Androscoggin Valley Regional  
Planning Commission

### By 1976: A Cleaner Androscoggin

Despite fears that the 1972 impoundment of federal funds would hamstring efforts to clean up the Androscoggin River, it now appears that the Androscoggin will indeed be a substantially cleaner river by 1976. With one possible exception, all municipal wastewater treatment facilities on the Maine segments of the river are scheduled to be completed by Oct. 1, 1976, and all industrial dischargers in the Androscoggin will operate under federal discharge permits with strict compliance schedules for applying best practicable control technology. According to John A.S. McLennon, Regional Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, "Municipal and industrial sewage are the chief sources of pollution to the Androscoggin. EPA's two major tools for abating and controlling these kinds of pollution are the Construction Grants Program and the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, both mandated by the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (FWPCA) of 1972.

The Construction Grants Program authorizes grants to local governments of federal funds to cover 75% of the allowable project costs for needed sewage treatment facilities.

More than \$14,000,000 has been awarded to Maine municipalities along the Androscoggin for construction of wastewater treatment facilities. Recent grants totalling \$5,245,943 made to the Rumford-Mexico Sewer District and to the Mexico Sewer District will provide a regional wastewater collection and treatment system. Construction began in August of this year, and should be complete by May 1976. At that time, the facility will serve a population of 9,500; it is capable of serving 21,500, the projected population of the area served in the year 2000. Dixfield and Peru will eventually tie in to Rumford-Mexico System.

Grants of \$1,084,80 and \$1,968,750 have been made to Lisbon and Livermore Falls, respectively, for construction of secondary wastewater treatment facilities. The Lisbon plant should be complete by May, 1975, and the Livermore Falls plant by June, 1975. The latter facility will serve a population of 9500, including the Jay Center and Chisholm sections of Jay.

Prior to the passage of the 1972 amendments to the FWPCA, EPA made grants totaling \$3,702,574 to Jay, Bethel, and the Lewiston-Auburn Water Pollution Control Authority for construction of secondary water pollution control facilities.

Mr. McGlennon noted that, "No construction of municipal treatment facilities is currently underway along the New Hampshire segment of the Androscoggin. However, Gorham and Berlin are both expected to apply for Step I and Step II grants, that is, planning and design grants, during this fiscal year."

The major industrial discharges in the Androscoggin Basin are pulp and paper mills, which produce an effluent loaded with BOD (biochemical oxygen demand) and suspended solids.

The Regional Administrator explained that these particular pollutants do have striking adverse effects on a waterway. They make the stream unpleasant aesthetically and undesirable for recreation. The oxygen demanding wastes lower the levels of dissolved oxygen so dramatically that fish such as trout and salmon simply cannot survive. Fortunately, however, control technology for these pollutants is readily available.

Brown Paper Company in Berlin, N.H., was issued a permit in May, 1974. The company began construction of its own treatment facilities in May, and construction should be complete by February, 1977. Although the plant will not be operating in time to meet Maine's accelerated statutory schedule, it will be on line before the federal statutory date of July 1, 1977.

In addition to constructing treatment facilities, Brown has made changes in plant operating procedure which have reduced effluent BOD loadings from about 150,000 pounds per day to as low as 60,000 pounds per day. Mr. McGlennon noted, "This is still a great deal of BOD, equivalent to the BOD produced by a population of 400,000 people. However, these changes in operational mode have resulted in a perceptible change in water quality below the Brown plant."



The Oxford Paper Company in Rumford was issued its permit in June, 1973, and will have completed its own treatment plant by October, 1976. International Paper has two mills - Androscoggin Mill and the Otis Mill, and permits for both have just recently been issued. The Androscoggin Mill plans to enlarge its operation, doubling its capacity. Therefore, its permit requires it to meet certain effluent limitations by Oct. 1, 1976, and when the capacity is doubled, to meet different set of criteria. The percentages of pollutants permitted in the effluent will be the same, but since there will be a greater volume of effluent, the actual numbers will be greater.

The Pejeboscot Paper Company in Topsham should have its own treatment system on line by the end of this year or early next year. Max Miller and Company, a textile firm in Lewiston, will tie into the Lewiston-Auburn regional system this month. In Lisbon Falls, U.S. Gypsum, a fiber-board manufacturer, and another Max Miller plant will be tying into the Lisbon treatment facility in late 1975.

All but two permits for municipal discharges in to the Androscoggin have been issued. The permit for Lewiston-Auburn will be issued by the end of this month, and the Brunswick permit has been temporarily delayed.

Mr. McGlennon concluded, "Thus, all municipal and industrial discharges into the Maine portions of the Androscoggin will be controlled to some degree by Oct. 1, 1976. However, the effects of municipal and industrial discharges into the New Hampshire segments will continue to be seen in most of the length of the river. Until the Brown treatment plant and the municipal treatment facilities in Gorham and Berlin go on line, it is quite possible that neither the New Hampshire nor Maine segment of the Androscoggin will meet its prescribed water quality standards.

December 5, 1974  
Bulletin

Androscoggin Valley Regional  
Planning Commission

### Army To Study Androscoggin Flood Potential

WALTHAM, Mass. - The extent and potential of flooding along the Androscoggin and Dead Rivers in Leeds, Maine, will be determined by a flood plain study initiated by the New England Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Col. John Mason, division engineer, has announced that the James W. Sewall Co. of Old Town, Maine, will complete the study by summer of 1975 at a cost of \$20,000 in government funds, including the cost of publication and distribution of the study report.

"Report of findings will include maps and flood profiles and will form a basis for planning and zoning for future safe development in flood prone areas of the community," Col. Mason said.

"regulation of future proposed construction in flood-periled areas will serve to control flood losses.

"Initiation of the study responds to a request from the community and the Maine Soil and Conservation Commission. The completed report will be published and presented to officials in the community," Col. Mason said.

Instrument surveys for analyses will be made to determine the elevations and physical features of the two rivers as required. Col. Mason stressed that the study is not for the purpose of proposing flood control structures.

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December 21, 1974

Lewiston Daily Sun

### Expensive Treatment

Homeowners in the Twin Cities are feeling the pinch which industry along the Androscoggin River has contended with for a quarter of a century. Cleaner water is desirable and attainable. But it commands a stiff price.

The Lewiston-Auburn sewage treatment plant now in operation in Lewiston will make a major contribution to a cleaner Androscoggin River. Municipal sewage now is the major pollutant, in contrast to 25 years ago, when industrial pollution was the major reason for the dirty water.

Lewiston residents and establishments are paying a sewer tax for the first time. It is tied in with water consumption. Next month, Auburn residents, who have had a separate Sewer District tax for many years, will see their tax increased by 175 per cent, because of the new treatment facility.

Inflation is having its effect on the new plant, hiking costs above expectations. As a result, it can be expected that the sewer tax will not remain static. It's expensive, but sewage treatment is the key to completing the cleanup of the Androscoggin River.

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January 14, 1975

Lewiston Daily Sun

### Realistic Goals

The Maine Department of Environmental Protection is being realistic in seeking legislation to defer the Oct. 1, 1976 deadline for the installation of waste treatment plants by municipalities and some industries. With federal funds for such construction held up by presidential orders, the goal just cannot be attained. It is better to change the law than to fail to enforce it.

Clean waters is a highly desirable objective. Anyone living in the Androscoggin River valley in the past three decades recognizes that. But its achievement has to be on a realistic basis.

Pollution is intertwined with industrial activity, jobs, municipal sewage and taxes. All play a part in the complex picture and each must be considered in perspective.

When concern for the environment rapidly was building, a clean waters goal of 1973 was set. Then the deadline was pushed ahead to 1976. Now, the DEP foresees the need to advance the deadline by another ten years. Meanwhile, there is concern for those towns, cities, and industries which already have spent large sums of money to meet the clean waters goals.

The DEP is proposing that industries planning to connect into municipal systems be required to pay the annual costs of sewage treatment, even though it is not being done, with the funds to be held for use when federal funds become available. That would prevent them from having a competitive advantage over other firms which already have joined municipal systems.

Industries in areas where there are no public sewers still must go ahead with treatment systems of their own, and the 1976 deadline will remain for them.

Clean waters, like clean air, cannot be attained overnight. In the process, the requirements imposed by law must be reasonable.

January 25, 1975

Lewiston Daily Sun

#### Otis Mill to be Shut Down Indefinite Period

LIVERMORE FALLS - International Paper Company will operate the Otis Mill here on a curtailed production schedule when the mill resumes operation Feb. 10, according to Robert V. Touchette, mill manager.

Only one of the mill's two paper machines will be started up. It will be run until the morning of Feb. 15 when it also will be shut down. Both machines will be temporarily idle for an indefinite period.

Touchette said that 35 percent of the mill's work force of 285 persons would be temporarily laid off as the result of the curtailed production and that an additional force would be laid off because of the Feb. 15 shutdown.

Touchette made the announcement of the shutdown schedule to department heads and union officials at the mill Friday. He said that the curtailment of production is a reflection of current market conditions and may be expected until market conditions improve when normal operations can be resumed.



February 4, 1975  
Bulletin

Androscoggin Valley Regional  
Planning Commission

IP begins \$140 million  
expansion at Jay plant

Taken from Lewiston Sun-Journal Tuesday, February 4, 1975

LIVERMORE FALLS - The year 1974 was one of the most progressive ever for the International Paper Company in Maine.

In mid-May, the board of directors of the company authorized plans for a major expansion of the company's Androscoggin Mill at Jay. The proposed expansion would cost \$140 million and would involve additions to the mill's wood handling system, the pulp mill and the paper mill. The proposed expansion would create an estimated 250 jobs in IP's Jay operations and a further 1,000 jobs in woodlands, transportation and other supporting business in Maine.

Appropriate applications were filed with federal and state agencies in order to acquire proper permits for operating the expanded operation. The expansion would require enlargement of the mill's existing environmental protection systems to meet all current standards.

The expansion would permit more efficient utilization of existing wood resources, both company-owned and private, in the State of Maine, including the use of residuals in the paper-making process, and the use of bark and other by-products which result in substantial savings in fuel oil and energy requirements.

The expansion would increase the mill's paper production capacity to 444,000 tons per year from its present 270,000 tons per year from its present 270,000 tons per year. The Androscoggin Mill manufactures lightweight papers for the business forms industry, as well as lightweight coated and uncoated publication papers.

The expansion would provide a 306-inch white paper machine and a 265-inch carbonizing machine to permit the company to continue serving the needs of its customers in the business forms industry, while making maximum utilization of the available fiber in each cord of wood.

Announcement of the expansion indicated a vote of confidence on the part of the company in the skills and cooperation of IP employees in the Jay and Livermore Falls area.

To further add to the year of progress at IP, the company, in August, announced the appropriation of some \$2.9 million to rebuild a paper machine at the Otis Mill in Chisholm, and to collect and treat the mill's industrial wastes.

This decision by the company would allow the Otis Mill to meet environmental standards and to renovate the mill's "Number

Nine" paper machine so that it might manufacture grades of coated papers of higher quality than it currently has the capabilities to make.

The mill's other paper machine "Number Eleven", was rebuilt several years ago and has been manufacturing the higher quality grades.

The mill manufactures approximately 150 tons of business and specialty papers a day and employs approximately 350 persons. International Paper Company's present operations in the state of Maine employ more than 1,300 persons with an annual payroll and benefits cost of \$20 million. Some 5,000 additional people are now required in wood procurement, transportation and other related industries throughout the state to support present mill operations.

February 17, 1975

Lewiston Daily Sun

### Androscoggin River Pollution Drops By Michael Carson

With one possible exception, all municipal wastewater treatment facilities on the Maine segments of the Androscoggin River will have been completed by Oct. 1, 1976, so that it now appears the river will be substantially cleaner by that time. Doubt had been expressed that the work could be completed on schedule due to the impoundment of federal funds in 1972.

John A.S. McClennon, regional administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, has reported that all dischargers into the Androscoggin will operate under federal discharge permits with strict compliance schedules for applying best practicable control technology.

EPA has two major tools for abating and controlling these kinds of pollution, the Construction Grants Program and the National Pollution Discharge Elimination system, both mandated by the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972.

The one possible municipal discharge delay is at Brunswick where the permit has been temporarily delayed.

### Sharp Reduction

The Androscoggin River basin is located partly in western Maine and northeastern New Hampshire. There is a total drainage area of 3,450 square miles, with about four-fifths of this in Maine. The basin is 65 miles wide and 110 miles long, but the river covers a length of about 160 miles in making its way to Merry meeting Bay.

In the last two years, the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission has reported that "most important, the total coliform bacteria levels, while in excess of acceptable

levels, have fallen more than 50 per cent."

The New England Commission has reported that "the most sensitive water use of the river is designated as fish and wildlife habitation."

McGlennon has concluded, "All municipal and industrial discharges into the Maine portions of the Androscoggin will be controlled to some degree by Oct. 1, 1976. However, the effects of municipal and industrial discharges into the New Hampshire segments will continue to be seen in most of the length of the river. Until the Brown Co. treatment plant and the municipal treatment facilities in Gorham and Berlin go on line, it is quite possible that neither the New Hampshire nor the Maine segment of the Androscoggin will meet its prescribed water quality standards. However, when all these plants are operational, the Androscoggin once again will be what its Indian name implies, 'Full of Fish.'"

### Construction Grants

The Construction Grants Program authorizes grants to local governments of federal funds to cover 75 per cent of the allowable project costs for needed sewage treatment facilities. This program is the second largest public works program in the country, with some \$2 billion allocated nationwide in fiscal year 1973, \$3 billion for fiscal 1974, and \$4 billion for fiscal 1975. Through a cost recovery system set up by each municipality, the federal share of capital costs is recovered from industrial users over a period not to exceed 30 years, and operation and maintenance costs are collected on a proportionate basis from any one who disposes of liquid wastes through the municipal sewage treatment system.

### Awarded \$14 Million

More than \$14,000,000 has been awarded to Maine municipalities along the Androscoggin for construction of wastewater treatment facilities. Recent grants totaling \$5,245,943 made to the Rumford-Mexico Sewer District and to the Mexico Sewer District will provide a regional wastewater collection and treatment system. Construction began in August of this year, and should be complete by May 1976. At that time, the facility will serve a population of 9,500; it is capable of serving 21,500, the projected population of the area served in the year 2000. Dixfield and Peru will eventually tie in to the Rumford-Mexico System.

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Prior to the passage of the 1972 amendments to the FWPCA, EPA made grants totaling \$3,702,574 to Jay, Bethel, and the Lewiston-Auburn Water Pollution Control Authority for construction of

secondary water pollution control facilities. Before EPA was formed in December, 1970, the predecessor agency provided partial funding for a secondary treatment plant in Bath, and a primary plant in Brunswick.

McGlennon noted that, "No construction of municipal treatment facilities is currently underway along the New Hampshire segment of the Androscoggin. However, Gorham and Berlin are both expected to apply for Step I and Step II grants, that is, planning and design grants, during this fiscal year."

### Elimination System

The other major action program mandated by the FWCPA to abate and control water pollution is the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System. Under the provisions of the federal statute, no industry or municipality may discharge any pollutant into the nation's waterways without a discharge permit. Maine permits will be issued jointly by EPA and the Maine Board of Environmental Protection, and New Hampshire permits by EPA until these states pass necessary legislation and are prepared to accept full responsibility for the permit program.

A permit is not a license to pollute. Rather, it strictly regulates what kinds of wastes may be discharged and in what quantities. Permits also contain compliance schedules requiring industries to apply best practicable control technology and municipalities to apply secondary treatment - or in some cases, even more stringent measures in order to meet water quality standards - no later than July 1, 1977. (Maine has its own accelerated schedule with a target date of Oct. 1, 1976.) Permit violations are punishable by stiff fines and a possible prison sentence.

The major industrial dischargers in the Androscoggin Basin are pulp and paper mills, which produce an effluent loaded with B.O.D. (biochemical oxygen demand) and suspended solids.

### Effect on Waterway

The regional administrator explained that these particular pollutants do have striking adverse effects on a waterway. They make the stream unpleasant aesthetically and undesirable for recreation. The oxygen demanding wastes lower the levels of dissolved oxygen so dramatically that fish, such as trout and salmon, simply cannot survive. Fortunately, however, control technology for these pollutants is readily available.

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The Pejeboscot Paper Company in Topsham should have its own treatment system on line early this year.

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July 10, 1975

Lewiston Evening Journal

**Ten Broeck To Direct AVRPC Study**

Craig W. Ten Broeck, a Maryland planner, has been appointed by the Androscoggin Valley Regional Planning Commission to direct the so-called "208 study," a two-year, federally funded water pollution control study.

Ten Broeck was previously employed by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and reviewed the Maryland draft of a similar water pollution control study, in addition to evaluating the environmental impact of federal, state and local projects in that state.

He received his B.S. degree in Resource Planning and Conservation in 1970 and his master's degree in Natural Resources in 1971, both from the University of Michigan. He is scheduled to begin his duties July 28.

July 26, 1975

Lewiston Daily Sun

**Control Change**

AVRPC By-law Amendment  
Draft Goes to Committee  
By John A. Bell

The ten-town 208 Policy Committee, which oversees the two-year, federally funded water pollution control study, will meet Monday night to sign the proposed by-law amendment taking final word authority on project personnel selection and spending away from the Androscoggin Valley Regional planning staff.

Policy Committee chairman Earle A. Tarr Jr. of Auburn said the draft of the AVRPC by-law amendment proposal was received late this week. Policy Committee members who voted for the amendment are expected to sign Monday, sending it to the AVRPC Executive Committee and ultimately to the full commission for two-thirds approval.

The change in the AVRPC bylaws was necessary to take personnel and budget control of the project out of the AVRPC staff hands and place it in those of the Policy Committee.

Since the difference of opinion over which body should have the control of the personnel selection and the project purse strings endangered the existence of the project as a whole last month, the amendment is expected to meet quick commission approval.

The committee will also be considering the appointment of a land use planner for the study, according to Tarr. The personnel subcommittee has reportedly been going over some applications for the position. It is not known whether any selection will be made Monday night.



The position is the third that will be filled since the pollution control study officially got underway. Craig W. Ten Broeck, a former Maryland Planner, was appointed project Administrator earlier this month, and AVRPC staffer Richard Darling was hired as a project planner.

In accordance with the Policy Committee's wishes, Ten Broeck has been reviewing the personnel set up for the study prepared earlier by the AVRPC staff to determine what changes, if any, are necessary in the administration of the study.

Tarr said that at the moment, the project administrator is reviewing what qualification changes would be necessary for the land use planner position.

July 26, 1975

In Fine New Book

Lewiston Evening Journal  
Magazine Section

Page Jones Pays Androscoggin  
Tribute It Has Long Deserved

"EVOLUTION OF A VALLEY"

"The Androscoggin Story" by Page Helm Jones  
(Phoenix Publishing, Canaan, New Hampshire) \$7.95

By NANCY GRAPE

Few if any of us growing up along the Androscoggin river ever felt about it the way Mark Twain felt about his Mississippi. And thinking back to some of those pre-pollution-control summers, it's no wonder!

But we do have a fine and historic river flowing through our local land even if we haven't always felt kinship with it and now, thanks to former Auburn resident Page Jones, we can pay the river some of the respect it has so long deserved.

The Androscoggin begins high in Maine with the streams which form the Magalloway, Cupsuptic and Kennebec rivers, flows into New Hampshire and returns once again to our state to flow into the Atlantic through the tidewater in Merrymeeting Bay.

Long before it was ours, however, this river was the Indians' and it continued to belong to them long after more accessible territory had begun to feel the encroachment of white settlement.

"The settlement of all of New England moved inward from the coast," Jones observes, "and the peculiar geography of the mouth of the Androscoggin contributed to its neglect for almost two centuries."

During these years, the Androscoggin Valley was the home of the Anasagunticook Indians who were of the Algoniquin family and Abanakis of the four tribes of that branch in Maine.

"From all of the data which we have been able to gather, which is mostly folklore and tales handed down from father to son in families of the very earliest settlers of the valley," Jones tells us, "the tribe was comparatively higher in intellect, physical well-being and tribal citizenship than most of the other Abanaki tribes. Whether this was because of their isolation or lack of warlike activities it is hard to say, but they managed their economy surprisingly well in a country surrounded by all the hazards of the primeval forest where winters were bitterly cold and the growing season was short."

Nomadic and without permanent year-round settlements, the Indians nevertheless at different seasons established their various villages in the same places throughout the valley year after year.

"Whether, however, they maintained the lodges all year or rebuilt them when they came back," Jones writes, "is not known."

What is known, he says, is that their largest and probably most permanent settlement was at Canton Point where they cultivated the rich intervale land.

Another large and near-permanent campsite existed at Laurel Hill, a point at the convergence of the Androscoggin and Little Androscoggin rivers in a city we now call Auburn - and a point where the Indians would later coalesce after withdrawing upriver in the face of advancing white settlement.

Names, by the way, are but one of the many fascinations of this entirely fascinating book. Auburn, as just noted, had once been 'Laurel Hill'. Did you know that 'Amitgonpotook' was the Indian name for what we now call Lewiston? Early settlers called the settlement 'Amitgonpotook Falls' and, Jones tells us, "There has been found to this day no reason for the name Lewiston Falls, though the most accepted theory is that the name was used for some reason by a member of the Massachusetts General Court, rather than the unpronounceable Indian name ... which the petitioners had attached to their charter application."

It's tempting - almost irresistibly so - to linger overlong on each aspect of the river's history. It's also probably only natural. Many of us, after all, have a strong possessive feeling about the Androscoggin river; its history is, in a very real sense, out history, too.

The men who really owned the river, however, in the sense that they acquired water rights and title to land along its banks, made money in the giant log drives and later dammed and diverted the river to create industrial energy are another part of Page Jones' story.

Here we find descendants of Colonel Moses Little - Edward Little (immortalized locally in Auburn's high school), Josiah Littles (two of them), Thomas B. Little, Edward Little and others. Here are Samuel Bearce, Samuel Pickard, The Great Androscoggin

Falls Mill, Dam Lock and Canal Company and the influential Franklin Company.

Further upriver there are Hugh Chisholm, W.W. Brown and the combination of newsprint makers that was to become the International Paper Co.

Jones divides his story into sections, following the history of the Berlin, Gorham, Shelburne, N.H., areas, then moving downriver to Rumford and Livermore Falls to cover the same era. Lewiston-Auburn receive similar attention as does the Brunswick-Topsam area.

Like the flow of the river itself, however, Jones' book remains a whole as he blends the histories of the river's sections into the history of the Androscoggin Valley itself.

There's a great deal of fun in this book. History, after all, isn't all gloomy, and local residents will be amused at the rather unsavory reputation we once had.

Evidently the good old days were better - or at least livelier - in Lewiston than in most places - including Auburn which, Jones tells us, by 1860 had begun to crystalize into "its role of a quiet churchgoing market town, a trifle disdainful of its brawling, fast growing, bustling neighbor."

Lewiston, on the other hand was Mecca for the woodsmen who flourished throughout part of the valley's history, the 'Bangor tigers' who headed for Lewiston's saloons and bawdy houses when the log drives ended in the Spring.

The "fleshpots" of Lewiston were well and widely known. Witness this comment from Page Jones' discussion of development not here but upriver at Rumford:

"They (Rumford townspeople) resented the fact that newcomers were opening stores and doing most of the business, that their longtime quiet streets were crowded with brawling laborers in the evenings, and what had become one of the driest towns in dry Maine now had as many 'blind tigers' as dissolute Lewiston which the good church people of the old town of Rumford considered a veritable Gomorrah."

Industry, however, eventually became Lewiston's hallmark as the city became home and working place for Yankee, European and French-Canadian immigrants.

It is at this point that what some will see as a note of condescension mars an otherwise exceptional work. With the advent in recent years of strongly renewed interest and pride in the Franco-American heritage, many will not share Jones' pleasure in the fact that, at the end of World War II, Franco-American servicemen "to their credit... came home pretty well Americanized and insisted that English be spoken where none had been through three generations."



Despite the excitement of its earlier years, however, Jones points out, the Androscoggin is today living through one of its most dramatic periods - the time when man, with the aid of a national frame of mind and a court system which implements it, cleans up the damage men have done.

Jones dates interest in improving the Androscoggin river here in Lewiston-Auburn to the disastrous Summer of 1941:

"From a faint whiff of hydrogen sulfite which rose from the river in May, the appalling stench of rotten eggs became progressively worse all up and down the river, and reached its climax in the most heavily populated section of Lewiston and Auburn, where roughly 60,000 indignantly aroused citizens became vocally and politically vehement.

"It was a community disaster which was not only the topic of all conversation, but caused the slowdown of industry and business in general.

"Retail stores were deserted and some suffered physically from the effluvia. Jewelers, for example, nearly went beserk keeping their stocks of silverware saleable because the sulfite-laden air turned silver and other metals black overnight.

"If you were driving from Augusta to Lewiston, you began to smell it at North Monmouth, 20 miles from the city, and it increased in intensity as the road approached the river. Houses painted white turned black and blistered in great ugly patches, and by the time you had reached the city limits, you had to put up your car windows despite the heat and try not to breathe through your nose.

"It was revolting, and the exodus of families who could afford it became a locust-like invasion of the seashore and the mountain and lakeside camps, provided they were located far from the foul river. The wage earners must of necessity remain and their outcries reached such a volume that the matter was brought before the newly created Maine Sanitary Water Board...

"Thus out of the despair and suffering of the populace was born the infant movement to recover the river."

Today, Jones declares, "The Valley of the Androscoggin is a valley of hope."

"From the beginning of time," Jones observes, the river "drow to its banks those who took from it what they needed and wanted with little thought of what they gave back. In 1941, it threw back what it had been given by man, and in full measure, and the shock was catalytic and far-reaching in its ultimate effects."

Awareness of the river helps bolster its chances for survival. With this in mind, Page Jones becomes himself a very special man in its history.

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August 1, 1975

Lewiston Daily Sun

Waste Is TreatedRiver Conditions Continue  
To Improve Says Rivermaster

By Lewis Millier

Water conditions of the Androscoggin are continuing to improve as millions of dollars are spent for the building, operation and maintenance of treatment plants, according to Dr. Walter A. Lawrance, rivermaster.

Dr. Lawrance reported that despite warm water temperatures, the oxygen level has not required the aerators to be used, even though they have been installed. Temperatures have reached 25 to 26 degrees centigrade, which Dr. Lawrance, pointed out, is quite warm. The problem is that when the temperatures are high, the solubility of oxygen in the water decreases and bacteria increases its rate of operation.

Water temperatures have been warmer for longer periods of time this year than last summer, but the aerators haven't been used, Dr. Lawrance said, since "the level of production in the mills is somewhat subnormal and we knew from the load coming down stream that conditions wouldn't stay that way for any length of time."

"We have been fortunate so far in that we have had very little odor this year," he said.

Work is progressing on the primary and secondary treatment plants upstream, and Dr. Lawrance estimates that the cost of the plants for the three plants will be about \$50 million. The cost of operating the plants will be in the six figure vicinity per year for each of the plants, and maintenance will be an ongoing process.

The major change upstream this year, according to the rivermaster, is the progress being made at the treatment plant at Oxford Paper Co., Rumford. Dr. Lawrance, who returned Thursday from an inspection of the facility, termed the progress "quite impressive."

Target date for completion of the primary treatment plant is July, 1976, and the secondary plant is expected to go into operation at about the same time but will not reach full effectiveness until the end of August, 1976.

Work there is on schedule, he noted, and it is expected that the target date will be met. He said, "By Labor Day next year, we hope that the conditions will be stabilized so that the bulk of the waste will be off the river."

It is expected to be two years before the primary and secondary plants are completed at the Brown Company, Berlin, N.H. Target date for the primary plant is about October, 1976, and the secondary plant, which like the Rumford plant will involve an activated sludge system, will probably not be effective before the spring of 1977, since it is difficult to get such systems started during cold weather.

Noting that treatment facilities at the International Paper Co. plants are completed, Dr. Lawrance said that "upstream conditions by the summer of 1977 should be in pretty good shape."

There will still be a ways to go, however, since it is expected to take longer before the municipal treatment plants at Berlin and Gorham are ready.

August 5, 1975

Lewiston Daily Sun  
Editorials

### A Cleaner River

Long before concern about the environment was common or popular, the people of the Androscoggin River valley knew they had a problem involving water and air. Each summer brought a pungent reminder in the form of hydrogen sulphide gas rising from the waste-filled river water.

The industry rejoinder to complaints in those days was that the pollution was part of the deal: No pollution, no jobs, no payrolls. From a competitive standpoint, they hardly could take any other position. Other states did not require the pulp and paper industry to do other than dump its waste into nearby waters.

As the conditions along the river worsened, relief was sought through the courts. The three large pulp and paper mills on the Androscoggin River first were required to reduce the amount of pollutants. Then they were required to provide for chemical treatment. And still later, lagooning of waste became one of the first methods of treating it.

Through the years, millions of dollars have been spent on the effort to reduce and eventually eliminate pollution, while keeping the industry healthy.

Three decades have passed since those early days of concern about the river and the health of the people who lived along its course. Whereas industrial waste was the major pollutant then, today it is municipal sewage. But industry has continued its cleanup program.

Meanwhile, environmental concern became popular in other states and finally on the federal level. Today no one accepts the theorem that: No pollution, no jobs, no payrolls. Because industry nationwide is required to conform, the competitive factor has been minimized, if not eliminated.

Moreover, in the process, the pulp and paper industry along the Androscoggin River, and throughout Maine, has grown and prospered. What appeared to be a hopeless dream in the 1940s, a cleaner river, has become a reality in 1975.

Oh it still wouldn't be a good idea to go for a swim in the Androscoggin River in the Twin Cities or further down river. But the day is not far distant when upper reaches of the river will be clean enough for that. A more distant day will bring ever cleaner waters through to Merrymeeting Bay, where the Androscoggin meets the Kennebec.

One man has been intimately connected with the river cleanup and its progress. He is Dr. Walter A. Lawrance, chemistry professor emeritus of Bates College. He was the original rivermaster named by the Maine Supreme Court in Equity. And he has remained rivermaster through the years.

Recently, following an inspection of water treatment facilities along the river, Dr. Lawrance expressed pleasure at the progress. International Paper, at Jay, has completed its treatment facilities. Oxford Paper, Rumford, is working on primary and secondary treatment plants which should be completed next summer. Brown and Co., Berlin, N.H., should have primary and secondary treatment plants in operation in October of next year.

At the same time, municipalities have made progress in sewage treatment. As funds are made available, state and federal, more such work will be done.

The Androscoggin River is a cleaner river today. It will be even cleaner within a few years.

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August 13, 1975

Lewiston Daily Sun

### Despite Heat No Need for River Aerators

Despite the recent stretch of hot weather, conditions of the Androscoggin River have not necessitated the operating of the aerators, according to Dr. Walter A. Lawrance, rivermaster.

While the oxygen level in the water has been reduced somewhat during the past couple of weeks, the water temperature had dropped slightly and "the situation with respect to odor has been very good", he said. "The pollution load coming through the pond is comparatively low," he said, "and the situation is such that I have not started the aerator."

He pointed out, however, that the runoff between Berlin, N.H., and Lewiston is "very low indeed." Monday's measurements showed a riverflow of 1,805 cfs (cubic feet per second) at Berlin, and only 2,180 cfs here in Lewiston, which means that the total inflow to the river between the two points is only 375 cfs.

The runoff is now lower than it has been since June. Dr. Lawrance pointed out that while the low riverflow is apt to lower the oxygen level and to raise the concentration of pollution, there is one favorable aspect.

"With the lower flow we often get higher temperatures, and they increase the micro-bio activity," he reported.

September 1975

Androscoggin Valley Regional  
Planning Commission  
News and Notes

Through the Maine Department of Conservation's training program there had been made available seven (7) CETA positions to the Androscoggin Valley, 10-town, 208 Planning Program. It is expected that the seven positions will be filled by August 29, 1975, and that the program will run from September 1, 1975, to February 1, 1976, and involve trainees in resource inventory and identification of non-point pollution sources which will provide major inputs into the non-point source and land-use planning portion of the 208 Program.

It was decided to take action on the 208 Program equipment expenditure until the 208 Policy Committee had an opportunity to express its recommendations on this matter. At their August 19, 1975, meeting, the Policy Committee at that meeting recommended the purchase of all equipment for the program with the condition that three competitive bids be secured prior to the purchase of each major piece of equipment. The staff of the 208 Program is now seeking bids for the equipment.

September 1975

Androscoggin Valley Regional  
Planning Commission  
News and Notes

#### PROGRESS OF THE 208 WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

At its regularly scheduled meeting on September 10, 1975, the Executive Committee, during the dinner session, heard a presentation by the 208 Project Director, Craig Ten Broeck, on the program progress to date. The program has finally managed to fill the Physiographic Planner position through the selection and approval of Harold E. Kimball, Jr., of Wiscasset, Maine. Mr. Kimball, who is 48 years old, has a Masters Degree in Resource Economics from the University of New Hampshire. His most recent experience has been as a planner in Sagadahoc County. There he represented the County Commissioners on the Time and Tide Conservation and Development Council and on the Southern Mid-Coast Regional Planning Commission. Other past involvements for Mr. Kimball have included a role as assistant to the Director of the Sea Grant program at the University of Maine Marine Laboratory at Walpo, Maine. He has also worked for four years as a research planning technician with



the Office of State Planning in the Executive Department in the State of New Hampshire.

Seven CETA people, loaned to the program by the Department of Conservation through its Conservation Trainee Program, are now working with the Physiographic Planner to develop the non-point and land-use segments of the 208 program. The CETA personnel will be involved in natural resources and land-use inventory and will also assist in assessment of non-point water quality problems in the ten-town 208 area.

The staff of the 208 program has also prepared a preliminary draft of the program Project Control Plan which has been presented to the 208 Policy Committee at their September 11, 1975, meeting and was approved with minor modifications. Final corrections will be made in the plan prior to the September 30, 1975, which is the deadline for submission to the EPA for review and approval.

Craig Ten Broeck  
208 Project Director

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September 25, 1975

Lewiston Daily Sun

### Await Report on Color Change at Sabattus Lake

Henry Bernier, president of the Sabattus Lake Association, and deputy sheriff in that town, said Wednesday he is awaiting a report from Matt Scott, state biologist, on his sampling of lake water on Tuesday.

Scott was called in to investigate after the normally green appearance of the lake, due to algae, suddenly took on a definite blue color. Officials so far have been unable to give a reason for the color change, and Bernier said no one can remember such a change taking place before.

According to Bernier, the lake normally has a green cast due to the large amount of algae present in the water.

The lake association president said his group was disappointed that Sabattus selectmen did not notify the association about the meeting held earlier this week with Greene selectmen concerning a sewerage system for the cottages on the lake. Bernier said that had the lake association received word of the meeting there would have been representatives present. The lake association is greatly interested in such a sewerage system to run around the greater part of the lake and take care of the great number of cottages located there.

Bernier said he anticipates that Scott will have a report available later this week.

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October 2, 1975

Lewiston Evening Journal  
Editorial

### Maine Water Quality

While some environmentalists may not be satisfied, we believe the people of Maine, the state government and many industries in our state deserve credit for doing well in carrying out the task of cleaning up the state's major waterways. A year from yesterday the 10-year crash program to do something about bad water conditions along many rivers and streams was started. It all commenced with a clean waters law.

While we cannot presume to know just how clean the Androscoggin, Kennebec, Penobscot and other waterways have become during the last nine years, it requires no intimate knowledge of scientific data to recognize the fact the rivers mentioned and many others are far cleaner now than in 1966. The Maine effort would be even further along had it not been for a temporary impounding of water clean-up funds in Washington. The money eventually was released through court action, but the process had been slowed.

Reports on a number of key waterways reveal a marked change in water quality. In some of them fish are being found in places where they hadn't been seen in years. Even our famous squaretail trout which require extremely clean water have moved into locations they hadn't frequented for several decades.

Here in the twin cities our respective noses tell us the difference. The Androscoggin has become less and less offensive to the nostrils with each passing year. Also, if you look at the water as it moves down the river there is far less in the way of solid waste and foaming chemicals to be seen on the surface.

The job of cleaning up our waterways has not been easy. Neither has it been inexpensive, as a \$75 million bond issue for the purpose testifies. Nor will it ever be over. It must remain a continuing process, as otherwise eventual deterioration could occur. Hopefully the state will attain the point where little more than a kind of watchdog procedure will be required when it comes to protecting water quality.

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